

## ~IDUMEA (34)

(Id-u-me'a) [from Greek, meaning Land of the Edomites]

- In Maccabean and Roman times the geographic boundaries of **Idumea** did not include the heartland of ancient Edom, East of the Arabah, but embraced parts of what had formerly been Simeonite and Judean territory.
- As indicated by the Apocryphal book of [First Maccabees 4:29,61][First Maccabees 5:65, JB], Idumea included the region around Hebron as far North as Beth-zur, about 26 kilometers (16 miles) South-Southwest of Jerusalem.
- It is reported that the **Idumeans** suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Judas Maccabaeus. [1 Maccabees 5:3]
- Later, according to Josephus, John Hyrcanus I subdued all the **Idumeans**, allowing them to remain in the land on condition that they submit to circumcision and adhere to Jewish law.
- Rather than leave the country, the **Idumeans** complied with this condition. [Jewish Antiquities, XIII, 257,258, ix, 1]
- Inhabitants of **Idumea** were among those who personally came to Jesus upon hearing of the many things he was doing.
- Even from Jerusalem and from Idumea and from across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, on hearing of how many things he was doing, came to him. (Mark 3:8)

See Also EDOM, EDOMITES